CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

No. 40 September 30th, 1958.

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No communiqué or statement was issued from the meeting.

DENMARK

Comments on the Meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

At the end of August a number of Danish newspapers brought extensive reports from the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches at Nyborg Strand. Special interest centred around the report by the Taylor Commission on "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age" and the same was true of the short statement on disarmament and an "open society" which the Committee resolved to issue to the congregations of the member churches on the initiative of Bishop Dibelius.

A number of daily newspapers also brought individual commentaries, especially on the study plan drawn up by the Commission. Thus the politically independent daily paper "Information" which is a direct continuation of the illegal paper of information during the German occupation dissociates itself in a leading article from the idea that, in the case of a total nuclear war, Christians must demand of their governments that an armistice be declared, even on the enemy's terms. "It would be absolutely fatal to all Western culture", the paper says, "if Communism should get the impression that it would be sure to gain supremacy by employing unscrupulously the most destructive means."

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In "Kristeligt Dagblad" the only Northern member of the Taylor Commission, Professor N.H. Søe, gave a detailed account of the considerations which led the majority of the Commission to their conclusions. In a leading article the paper applauds the message of the Central Committee, especially its emphasis on the necessity for an "open society" as a step towards disarmament. "Every knowing person realizes that this word is aimed at not only the "East", but also at "West", the paper writes, "not the least at the U.S.A. with all the problems which must be solved and all the questions which must be answered before anybody is allowed to enter the States. Frontiers that are as inconspicuous as a t all possible must be a natural Christian demand."

The leader in "Kristeligt Dagblad" concludes: "The road may be very long indeed. But it may also be shorter than probably believed by any expert to-day. It is not just a pious platitude when Bishop Dibelius ends his statement by saying that everything is possible to God. Well, the Almighty never promised man "peace on earth" in the sense in which the Christmas message is usually understood or, rather, misunderstood. But all Christians know that the battle for the radical up-rooting of war is in accordance with the will of God. We do not believe that this would make the world a paradise. The new heaven and the new earth will come on the day of the Lord and not before. But in spite of this we must fight against war. And from a purely human point of view there is hardly a more urgent task than the striving for peace among the peoples. This battle has always been essential. In an atomic age the urgency of this demand is almost overwhelming."

Proposal for an Archbishop and Three New Dioceses in Denmark.

In an article in "Dansk Kirketidende" the former Danish Minister of Church Affairs, Dean CarlHermansen, Hjørring, suggests that the Lutheran National Church should have an archbishop as they have in the Swedish and Finnish Churches. The proposal is made in connection with the discussion about the division of the much too large diocese of Copenhagen, a division which is expected to take place in two years' time when Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard retires on account of age. According to the Dean's proposal all that part of the diocese of Copenhagen outside the city itself should constitute an independent diocese and the see of Copenhagen become an archiepiscopate.

At the same time it is suggested that the Faroe Islands and Greenland should once more become independent dioceses as they were in the Middle Ages.

Whether this proposal will gain support and, if so, whether it will prove at all practicable is still an open question. But at least it seems most likely that the designation for the Bishop of Copenhagen will continue to be "primus inter pares".

Russian Baptist Leader on the World Council of Churches.

During his stay in Denmark some time ago the Secretary General of the Baptist Church in the Soviet Union, Alexander Karev, in an interview in "Kristeligt Dagblad" said in answer to a question about his opinion on the negotiations then taking place between the World Council of Churches and the Russian Orthodox Church:

"We in the Russian Baptist Church are much interested in the Orthodox Church joining the World Council of Churches. If this should happen we in the Baptist Church would consider the question of our own membership. We appreciate the importance of the work of the World Council of Churches."

Roman Catholic Chasuble Presented to Lutheran Church.

The Sisters in the Roman Catholic Convent of St. Joseph in Bavaria have presented the Lutheran Cathedral in Copenhagen, the Church of Our Lady, with a beautiful purple chasuble. The parochial council of the Cathedral had inquired in the Convent, when visited by one of the clergymen attached to the Cathedral, how much such a chasuble embroidered by the Sisters would cost and the answer was that they would like to present it as a gift to the Cathedral. The chasuble has now been received and taken into use and in return a donation, collected in the Lutheran Cathedral, has been sent to the German Sisters in appreciation of this token of the ecumenical spirit.

First Danish Kirchentag Held in Viby.

On the model of the German Kirchentage the first Danish one was held in Viby near Arhus. It was arranged by a committee, headed by the Rev. J. Gaarn Larsen. There were three church services in the morning at which the Church President, Martin Niemöller, Bishop Skat Hoffmeyer and Professor Regin Prenter preached, and, in spite of bad weather, some 3.000 people assembled in the afternoon for a meeting in the sports stadium. Here Dr. Niemöller spoke on "The Responsibility of the Christians in the World To-Day"; Dr. Reinhold von Thadden brought a greeting from the German Kirchentag Movement, and the Minister of Church Affairs, Bodil Koch, spoke on "Church and Nation".

An exhibition of church art from different periods was shown in the public library in connection with the rally and the day ended with a torch light parade which started from four different points in the town and united in the town square while the church bells rang.

Centenary of the Methodist Church.

Last month the Danish Methodist Church celebrated its centenary together with numerous guests from many countries. The celebrations lasted for four days and included a number of church services and meetings. At the gala meeting on the night of the anniversary greetings were received from many sides, among others, from the Minister of Church Affairs, Bodil Koch, and Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard. In his speech the Bishop exprcssed his appreciation of the call for revival and spiritual life which has emanated from the Methodist Church in Denmark and he described this Church as a "sister church, part of the world-wide ecumenical fellowship".

"Kristeligt Dagblad", a Lutheran National Church paper, also expressed its good wishes for the celebrating Methodist Church. In a leading article it is emphasized how close this Church is to sections of the National Church in spite of certain theological differences of opinion and the paper expresses its appreciation "that our Methodist brethren succeed in offering both Christian and human help to Danes whom the National Church has not been able to reach ..... We know that we need not fear an unbrotherly competition. We can learn from one another also in the future and yet also spur on one another to greater zeal in the common service. We are brethren, called and dedicated to serve the same Lord."

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News in Brief.

- Rev. Erik W. Nielsen, Study Secretary to the International Missionary Council in London, will return to Denmark on January 1st, 1958, as Secretary General to the Danish Missionary Society.

- The Minister of Church Affairs has appointed a committee which is to study more closely the question of giving the Mormons access to photograph Danish parish registers (see CN No. 39). The committee is made up by three bishops and representatives of the Ministry and the regional archives. No parish registers will be handed over to the Mormons before the committee has completed its investigations.

- The Danish State Broadcasting Service has turned down a suggestio by the Christian Social Democratic Association to transmit a church service on May 1st. However, the Association proposes to send in another application to the Radio.

- The number of legal induced abortions in Denmark has gone down with 33°/o during the last two years, it appears from a new statistica survey. The figures were 5.434 in 1955, 4.522 in 1956 and 3.444 in 195 This shows that the Act passed two years ago, giving wider access to induced abortion, has not had the effect which was feared by many.

FINLAND

Stirring Sermon to Finnish Members of Parliament.

"The Finnish nation expects a new harmony and new earnest endeavours from its representatives", Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist stated in his sermon at the service by which the new Parliament opened its first session after the election this summer.

In his sermon the Bishop said, furthermore, among other things:

"In the most diverse sections in our people there is a strong feeling that our political life needs a radical renewal. The shocking gravity of our time emphasizes this demand..... We look for an unswerv ing loyalty towards the legal system of our country. We urge a new will to co-operate which may bridge old chasms and unite all positivel inclined forces in honest collaboration for the welfare of our country and nation. It is our wish that concern for own privileges and selfish party interests may give way to considerations for the common good. Especially all suffering, unemployed, and old people and those ill-treated by life are entitled to help from both the authorities as well as the individual."

The Bishop reminded the audience that the country and its freedom, the native soil and the home, are gifts from God and continued:

"Every gift carries obligations with it. Our society, our legal system, and our faith are gifts which we have inherited from our fathers, and they are great enough to call forth gratitude and a sense of sacred obligation.

Our country has experienced hard times, but it has come through with its freedom intact, although bleeding. In spite of all what we complain about now this country gives us living conditions for which we must be grateful and thank God.

The fate of our country and the good living conditions which we experience to-day tell us that we must guard that which we have received in order to pass it on unscathed and improved to future gene-

rations. The judgment of posterity on our generation will be hard if we who, in spite of all sufferings, errors, and dangers, have been allowed to retain freedom and prosperity on account of discord and quarelling set at stake the highest values of the country and of our own lives."

Finnish Moderator Elected by the Church in Amboland.

Four years ago the Lutheran congregations which have sprung up in Amboland and the Okawango district in South West Africa as a result of Finnish evangelization during the past 88 years were united in an independent church called the Ambo-Kawango Church. This summer the new Church held its first Church Synod at which, among other things, a moderator for the Church was to be elected. The Church Law provides for the election of a native leader to this post, but the choice fell, nevertheless, on a Finnish missionary, viz. the Principal of the theological seminary, Rev.Alpo Hukka. The supreme administrative council was made up by 4 Ambo clergymen and 4 Finnish missionaries. The Synod was attended by 43 Ambo ministers, 69 lay representatives of the congregations and 7 Finnish missionaries.

The Church Synod debated and passed the new Church laws and decided with acclamation to apply for membership in The Lutheran World Federation. The Church counts some 100.000 members of which the 3.650 live in the Okawango district. The number of Christians has quadrupled in the course of the last 30 years. 71 Finnish missionaries, including 11 clergymen, are employed by the Ambo-Kawango Church.

Elementary School Teachers Attend Theological Courses.

This summer 22 elementary school teachers and 2 M.A.'s took part in a theological course in connection with the summer university in Kallavesi. It was the third time such a summer university was held and once more the Bishop Eino Sormunen, Kuopio, was Rector of the university. But the theological course was a new feature, however. It offered prelimary divinity subjects such as Hebraic, Greek and Latin. The idea behind the course was an attempt at meeting the shortage of clergymen by animating the participants to further theological studies.

Confirmation in Boy Scouts Camp.

In connection with the celebrations at the opening of the big camp for the Finnish Boy Scouts Association in Hangö in the Silversand region a confirmation service was also held. The candidates for confirmation were prepared by the Rev. Matti Hakkarainen who read with them in a so-called "Confirmation school camp" arranged on the same site immediately prior to the actual camp. The "Confirmation school" boy scouts also built the chapel which was employed by the members of the big camp in which 4.000 boy scouts took part, including 200 guests from 10 different countries.

Industrial Seminary for Clergymen.

On September 1st the Laymen's Institute in Järvenpää began a 3-months' seminary for 15 clergymen, its main subject being "The Church in Industrialized Society". The well-known minister, Rev. Horst Symanowski from West Germany, is among the lecturers. His subjects include, among others, "Man Changes Simultaneously With Mechanization", "Does the Structure of Our Church Further or Hamper Its Work?" and "The Congregation Without Pulpit". - The seminary's curriculum includes 6 weeks' work in various factories.

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Two New Finnish Churches in Modern Style.

The two prize-winning entries in the architects' competition for a plan for the erection of two churches in Hyvinge and Lauritsdal are very modern in style. They constitute a complete breaking away from Medieval church architecture, but fulfill the practical, artistic and religious requirements while at the same time harmonizing well wit the Finnish scenery. Hyvinge's church has neither roof nor walls in th ordinary sense, but triangular adjoining planes instead which serve equally well as roof and walls. In Lauritsdal's church the roof slopes almost to the ground, then slowly rises and finally suddenly goes stee ly into the air.

NORWAY

Atomic Bomb a Church Problem.

During the summer the Norwegian press has discussed the attitude of the Church towards the problems arising from the present nuclear rearmament. The discussion was started with an article in the Christia daily paper in Oslo "Vårt Land" in which the Rev. Thorleif Boman, D.D. warned against the attitude of Christian men and women who simply omit to make up their minds with regard to these problems on the ground tha they do not understand anything of it. He appealed to thinking Christi to consider the matter properly and to decide independently on the dea ly serious problems arising from the nuclear rearming. Believing that the risk for an atomic war increases with the number of people possess ing nuclear weapons he appealed to the Norwegian bishops to induce the World Council of Churches to start an action with the aim to prevent more countries from being supplied with atomic weapons.

In a leader the "Vårt Land" declared that the question of a possible extension of the "atomic club" to other countries than the U.S.A., Great Britain and the Soviet Union was a matter of political and not ethical character. Therefore the churches will do well not to interfere in these decisions. However, the Church might - and ought to use its power and authority, with spiritual weapons, to clear the way for a brotherly spirit among the nations which would lead to a real detente and reconciliation of the world; in other words: a moral re-armament based upon the Christian principles. The paper does not feel that nuclear weapons are more reprehensible than the quite well-developed "traditional weapons" in the last war.

In a later article Dr. Boman advocated that the denominations should jointly draw up a Christian moral creed in correspondence with the confessional creed developed during the first centuries of the Christian era. The moral creed must originate from the Christian faith and the author is convinced that the various church communities, in spite of their differences of opinion in matters of faith, would prove to be quite agreed in matters of ethics. The Christian Church must ste forward and clearly state its opinions about right and wrong in matter concerning the very basis of our existence. And the most urgent ethica problem to-day is war. In the last century war was described by some as "a well of healthiness", but the present methods of modern warfare have made it an unconditional evil. Dr. Boman quotes the principal contents of the appeals issued last year by the World Council of Churches and notes that they have not even been noticed, let alone fol lowed. "The Christian Church must speak louder, clearer, more simply and more urgently", he concludes. "If it speaks too softly it runs the risk, not only of becoming an accessory to the destruction of the white race, but also of something far worse: of suffering damage to its soul

A statement by Bishop Alf Wiig in "Lofotposten" must also be taken as a contribution to this discussion. He says here: "It must be the moral duty of the churches to join in the efforts for bringing the experiments with nuclear weapons to an end. It is obvious that it is natural to the Church to oppose any form for war. The atomic bomb is a threat, not only to our own generation, but also to future ones. The Church would fail in its duty if it did not, with all the power of its authority, try to prevent experiments with weapons which will afflict our descendants with physical defects, the extents of which we do not know yet."

Extensive Evangelization Drive Soon Planned in Østfold.

Some 130.000 people in Østfold will be personally invited by house-to-house visitors to take part in the big evangelization drive planned for November 9th - 14th in the towns of Sarpsborg, Fredrikstad, Halden, Moss and surrounding districts. The campaign will include meetings and services in 40 different churches, chapels and meeting halls with a corresponding number of guest speakers. The parochial councils as well as the voluntary Christian organizations in that area have gone in 100 °/o for the drive which is being carefully planned in Bible and prayer groups. There has been similar drives before in great parts of this region and the experiences thus gained will now be put into use. Among other things, greater stress will be put upon keeping in touch after the campaign with people with whom one has come into contact.

Church Activity at Exhibitions and Fairs.

The Christian daily newspaper in Oslo "Vårt Land" finds that it is a new and encouraging feature that exhibitions and fairs this summer and autumn in several cases included Christian meetings and religious services. As an example it mentions the Ørsta Fair in the Sumfjord in August which opened with a special service, attended by so many people that there simply was not room for them all in the church. Later on there was a meeting in the exhibition grounds, arranged by the Lutheran Free Church which began with a splendid torch light parade from the centre of the town to the exhibition grounds.

Two New Churches Being Erected in Oslo.

The erection of churches in two of Oslo's new residential quarters may now be started following upon the decision of the city council to sanction a grant of 800.000 Norwegian crowns towards the erection of churches. The [illegible]cration of the Torshov Church on Whitsunday was the first one to take place in Oslo for the past 30 years.

More Than 180.000 Norwegian Children Attend Sunday School.

It appears from a statistical survey presented at the meeting last month of the Norwegian Sunday School Union which includes a number of Sunday schools run by the churches and voluntary organizations that at present there are 3.187 Sunday schools with a total of 181.222 pupils in the Union. There are 9.155 teachers in these Sunday schools, 5.292 of which are men and 3.863 women. 43 °/o of the children are boys and 57 °/o girls. The children's Sunday school paper has a circulation of 89.100 copies. During the last 3 years some 1,200 Sunday school teachers have attended various courses.

The Baptists Express Their Opposition to Military Service.

At its national congress this summer the Norwegian Baptist Church passed three resolutions of which the one is directed against military service. It runs as follows:

"The National Congress of the Baptist Church earnestly appeals to all young men of military age belonging to the Baptist congregations to follow their conviction and make use of their right to do civilian fatigue duty."

The Radio Starts Bible Study Groups.

During the summer the Norwegian broadcasting service started groups of people all over the country on the study of the Prophet Isaiah. For four Thursdays in July seven members of the Bible study groups in Oslo, headed by a clergyman, met in order to discuss four passages from the book of the Prophet Isaiah in front of the open microphone and, in order that listeners should not only listen, but also become actively engaged they were requested to order a leaflet free of charge from the Radio explaining the working methods of a Bible study group.

News in Brief.

- The Norwegian clergyman, the Rev. Enok Aadnøy, has gone to America in order to do one year's service as a minister in one of the congregations belonging to the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. At the same time a Norwegian-American minister, the Rev. Herman E. Jørgensen, Portland, has arrived in Oslo in order to work in the parish of Ullern. The purpose of the exchange is to strengthen the ties between the Norwegian Church and its sister church in the U.S.A.

- The city court in Oslo has pronounced Henry Miller's book "Sexus" immoral and thus made its sale punishable. The judgment has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Judicature.

- The Executive Committee of the World Council of the Methodist Church has resolved that the next world conference of the Church is to take place in Oslo in 1961.

SWEDEN

Church Assembly Accepted Bill on Women Pastors.

The Church Assembly of the Swedish Lutheran National Church has been in session from August 30th - September 29th in Stockholm, where the meetings were held in the Parliament building. The Church Assembly consists of 57 laymen and 43 theologians, among these the 13 bishops and 2 representatives of each of the theological faculties in Uppsala and Lund. Due to the illness of Archbishop Brilioth the Church Assembly was presided over by Bishop Ysander of Linköping.

The most important question decided upon by the Assembly was the Bill accepted by Parliament giving women the right to serve as ministers in the National Church. The same Bill was submitted to the Church Assembly in 1957 as a Bill cannot become church law without the acceptance of the Assembly. The Assembly then decided with 62 votes against 36 to express the opinion that a decision should not be made before one had reached more unity and clearness in the Church on the ministry. Now the Government again had submitted the Bill to the Church Assembly.

The Committee composed of members of the Assembly which had to prepare the decision had reached unity on three main points:

1. The desire that women should get the right to serve as ministers has among many people, clergymen as laymen, originated from an honest concern for the Church in order to increase her possibilities to serve the Gospel.

2. The Committee unanimously agrees that the problem must be examined before the Scriptures interpreted by the help of the Confessional Books of the Church of Sweden.

3. The Committee was united in the conviction that with Jesus and the New Testament a completely new view of the woman came and that this new view must be fully taken into consideration when the access of the woman to take holy orders will be judged.

The Committee also unanimously expressed the opinion that if the Bill were accepted this must not imply that the bishop is obliged to ordain women against his religious conviction.

The majority of the Committee, 8 members, had come to the conviction that according to the Lutheran conception of the Bible and the ministry there are in principle no obstacles for women to hold the ministry of the Church. Furthermore, the Church cannot rightly perform her task if she abstains from taking also women in her service.

Of the minority 5 members had found that the ordination of women would be contrary to the Bible, especially St. Paul, and to the confession of the Church and would cause serious disunity in the Church. One member had moved that the Church Assembly should accept a proposal made by the bishops Nygren (Lund), Cullberg (Västerås), and Ljungberg (Stockholm) which meant that the question should be dealt with as belonging to the constitutional and not to the Church law. This proposal, however, did not be of any importance in the discussion.

The debate in plenary session took 20 hours in two days, and more than 50 speakers took part in it. 69 members (6 bishops, 14 clergymen and 49 laymen) voted in favour of the Bill, 29 members (5 bishops, 16 clergymen and 8 laymen) against, and the Chairman and one clergyman abstained from voting. The law will take effect from January 1st, 1959.

Ecumenical Commission on Atomic Questions.

The Swedish Ecumenical Council has set up a Committee with the chief editor Per-Olof Hanson as chairman. This Committee is to study the results of nuclear science and their consequences from a Christian point of view. The immediate reason for this is the running debate in Sweden on the possible introduction of atomic weapons into the Swedish army. The other members of the Committee are the Professors Georg Landberg and Erik Ingelstam, the lecturers Gunnar Hillerdal, Gunnar Lindström and Ansgar Eeg-Olofsson and Gunnar Tibell, M.A. The secretary of the Committee is Sven-Erik Aljered, civil engineer.

Joint Christian Advertizing Campaign for Church Attendance.

In October the Swedish Lutheran National Church and most of the Free Churches will join in the most extensive advertizing campaign so far for increased church attendance. On the four Saturdays in October advertisements will be inserted in the papers for altogether 100.000 Swedish Crowns, half of which will be paid by the National Church, half by the Free Churches. The text for the sermons will be the same in all the churches on these Sundays and in the advertisements the

The Committee composed of members of the Assembly which had to prepare the decision had reached unity on three main points:

1. The desire that women should get the right to serve as ministers has among many people, clergymen as laymen, originated from an honest concern for the Church in order to increase her possibilities to serve the Gospel.

2. The Committee unanimously agrees that the problem must be examined before the Scriptures interpreted by the help of the Confessional Books of the Church of Sweden.

3. The Committee was united in the conviction that with Jesus and the New Testament a completely new view of the woman came and that this new view must be fully taken into consideration when the access of the woman to take holy orders will be judged.

The Committee also unanimously expressed the opinion that if the Bill were accepted this must not imply that the bishop is obliged to ordain women against his religious conviction.

The majority of the Committee, 8 members, had come to the conviction that according to the Lutheran conception of the Bible and the ministry there are in principle no obstacles for women to hold the ministry of the Church. Furthermore, the Church cannot rightly deprive her task if she abstains from taking also women in her service.

Of the minority 5 members had found that the ordination of women would be contrary to the Bible, especially St. Paul, and to the confession of the Church and would cause serious disunity in the Church. One member had moved that the Church Assembly should accept a proposal made by the bishops Bygren (Lund), Dahlberg (Västerås), and Lindroth (Stockholm) which meant that the question should be dealt with as belonging to the constitutional and not to the Church law. This proposal, however, did not be of any importance in the discussion.

The debate in plenary session took 20 hours in two days, and more than 50 speakers took part in it. 69 members (6 bishops, 11 clergymen and 49 laymen) voted in favour of the Bill, 29 members (5 bishops, 16 clergymen and 8 laymen) against, and the Chairman and one clergyman abstained from voting. The law will take effect from January 1st, 1959.

Governmental Commission on Atomic Questions.

The Swedish Ecumenical Council has set up a Committee with the chief editor Per-Olof Hanson as chairman. This Committee is to study the results of nuclear science and their consequences from a Christian point of view. The immediate reason for this is the running debate in Sweden on the possible introduction of atomic weapons into the Swedish army. The other members of the Committee are the Professors Georg Landberg and Erik Ingelstam, the lecturers Gunnar Hillerdal, Gunnar Lindström and Asger Sag-Olofsson and Gunnar Tibell, M.A. The secretary of the Committee is Sven-Erik Alstered, civil engineer.

Joint Christian Advertising Campaign for Church Attendance.

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Scripture passages will be quoted in relation to the topical problems of modern man and an appeal made to go to church the following day.

International Free Church Conference in Jönköping.

From 9th - 14th September some 50 representatives of free church congregations of the Congregationalist kind from the USA, Germany, France, Holland, Greece, Switzerland, Spain and the Northern countries met for a conference of the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches. The main theme of the conference was "The Practical Consequences of the New Testament Teaching About the Christian Congregations".

News in Brief.

- One of Sweden's most unusual churches will be dedicated shortly in Saltoluokta. It is a true Samish church in as much as it is built by two Sams and has the form of a huge Lappish hut with accommodation for 70 people who are to be seated along the walls. In the middle of the floor there is a fireplace and an open fire will heat the church. The smoke disappears through a hole in the roof. The church is built from logs, covered with tin plates and a layer of peat on the very outside.

- Linköping Cathedral Chapter strongly advocates the re-establishment of the former Kalmar diocese which for a number of years has belonged to Växjö Diocese. The demand which has been voiced several times before, but been rejected by the Government, is being energetically supported by the liberal newspaper "Morgon-Bladet".

- The Free Church Study Union is steadily growing. During 1957-1958 the affiliated organizations conducted 2.178 study circles and included 2.633 hobby groups which were entitled to Government grants, an increase of 15 °/o and 75 °/o respectively compared with the previous year.

- One of the most active Swedish churchmen in post-war relief work, the Rev. Birger Forell, Borås, who was one of the principal forces behind the erection of the refugee town of Espelkamp in Germany, died during the summer at the age of 64.